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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Akihiko MARUYAMA et al.

Group Art Unit: 1634

Appl. No. : 10/049,626  
(National Stage of PCT/JP00/05711)

Examiner: Frank Wei Min Lu

Filed : February 22, 2002  
(International Filing Date August 24, 2000)

Confirmation No.: 7767

For : METHOD OF DETECTING AND QUANTITATING MICROORGANISM  
HAVING SPECIFIC FUNCTION AND ITS GENE FROM NATURAL  
ENVIRONMENT, NOVEL 16sRrNA GENE DATA AND PROBES

**REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF TIME**

Commissioner for Patents  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop AMENDMENT  
Randolph Building  
401 Dulany Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

Please extend the time for response to the Notification of Missing Requirements dated August 10, 2005, by three months, from November 10, 2005, to and including February 10, 2006. A check is attached which includes payment of the \$1,020.00 fee for a three(3)-month extension of time. The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to credit any overpayment or charge any additional fee to maintain the pendency of this application to Deposit Account No. 19-0089. Any comments or questions concerning this application can be directed to the undersigned at the telephone number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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February 10, 2006  
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